67. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. S. SUBRAHMONYA IYER (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) said that *Manamari* tanks were tanks which lay outside the commanded area of the Kodayar Project. They were intended to irrigate about 8 to 9 thousand acres of Ayacut wet lands lying outside the Project. By a systematic neglect of these tanks for about the last 25 years many of them had become silted up; some had been encroached upon by neighbouring owners and yet others had been registered away to private owners. From very olden days the tanks were properly maintained by Government and the lands concerned were heavily assessed both in the Ayacut and in the last Settlement. In fact no distinction was made between channel-fed wet lands and *manamari* wet lands for purposes of assessment. *Vide* Kodayar papers Vol. III, P. 21, para 38 of the Special Officer's Report. In the year 1057 these tanks came under the special protection of the Huzur Maramath Department under the direct supervision of the Dewan Peishkar, Southern Division. From that year Government were spending on an average about Rs. 50,000 over the tanks. In the year 1081 when the Maramath Department was reorganised, the work was transferred to the P. W. D. The P. W. D., however, confined themselves to the commanded area of the Kodayar Project on the plea that the irrigation works outside the Project came within the province of the Revenue Department under the Irrigation Regulation. The Revenue Department on the other hand found refuge in the circumstance that the Irrigation Regulation had not come into operation. Government for their part ordered in G. O. No. 2933/L. R., that the ryots should contribute one-half of the expenditure, but as a result of representations in the Assembly they admitted their mistake and cancelled the order. The matter, however, rested there. It was only after the recent out-break of cholera that Government realised the imperative necessity of tank restoration. But so far no comprehensive scheme had been formulated. The allotments made were also very scanty, compared with the assessments made which were fixed at a time when the lands were adequately irrigated. What was required was that the work should be entrusted to a separate agency under a Division Officer and maintenance grant provided for every tank restored. A period should also be fixed, preferably 5 years, within which the whole work should be completed.

A dam should be constructed at Mampazhathanai and another at Perunchilampu. These would supplement the water from the Kodayar. The catchment area of the former would be about 8 square miles. In the case of the latter there were some practical difficulties. It would meet the case if the tanks in the area were restored.

Next to facilities for irrigation what the ryots wanted were facilities for pasturage of cattle. A major portion of the dry lands in the locality was converted into wet lands, and a number of tank-beds were sold in auction. The hill-slopes of Velimalai were from very olden days used for the grazing of cattle; but these lands were being registered away

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block by block to private owners. When the registries were made in future a compact area suitable for pasturage should be set apart and it should be declared a reserve.

A bridge should be constructed over the Parali river at the place called Peruvazhikadavu. The road from Kulasekharam to Shorlacode had to cross this river. There was heavy traffic on this road which was 16 feet wide. In the rainy season it was difficult to cross the river. Government had once an idea of constructing a bridge across the river. It was given up only because of the boom in the price of iron consequent on the out-break of the Great War. But now the situation had changed completely and the price of iron had gone down to Rs. 7 a cwt.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, I hasten to remove a misapprehension you seem to labour under. You spoke of systematic neglect on the part of the Government. Let me assure you that the Government have not as yet adopted a method of applied neglect.

MEMBER: I beg to submit that I said 'neglect till last year'.

DEWAN: Well, the Government of Travancore have up to the present adopted definite methods of neglect. Whatever has happened is due to fortuitous circumstances and not malice afore-thought.

In regard to the *manamari* tanks the Government have at present under consideration a scheme for the better control, management and improvement of minor irrigation.

Yow want a dam constructed at Mampazhathurai at a cost as you state of Rs. 2 lakhs. The object of the dam you propose is to provide a better supply of water for irrigation purposes. The Chief Engineer has explained to me that the surplus water of the Mampuzhathurai is already being diverted into the P. P. Channel by the construction of two drops. Thus the waters of the Mampazhathurai are already being made use of for irrigation without the construction of a dam.

You also advocate the construction of a bridge over the Parali river now that the cost of iron has gone down to Rs. 7 a cwt. The Chief Engineer says that even at that price the need is not sufficiently great to justify the construction of a bridge as the traffic has not sufficiently developed for the purpose. There is a ferry there and a causeway and these for the time being at any rate meet the requirements of the place.

68. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. K. M. KESAVAN TAMPI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) said that the subject of irrigation was, it was gratifying to note, receiving careful attention in the present administration, which in this respect offered a striking contrast to the preceding ones, particularly those of foreign Dewans. The Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer were busy preparing schemes for the improvement of tanks and channels and the allotment for minor irrigation works which stood at Rs. 18,590 in 1096 had in the course of 1101, 1102, and 1103 risen

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